

Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists

Board Meeting

Friday, April 17, 2020, 9 a.m.

THIS MEETING DID NOT HAVE A PHYSICAL LOCATION.

IT WAS A PHONE CALL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ken Bateman, Professional Member
George Francis, Public Member
Evelyn Husband-Thompson, Public Member
Lisa Merchant, Professional Member
Michael Miller, Public Member
Anthony Scoma, Public Member
Richmond Stoglin, Professional Member
Jennifer Smothermon, Professional Member

Staff Present:

Jeff Bulloch
Sarah Faszholz
Georgia Norman
Tim Speer

Guests Present:

Oscar Benson
Diana Carleton
Thomas Copeland
Netti Daumer
Laura Edmunds
Jodi Elder
Angelica Escobar Barrera
Patrick Hyde
Josh Llano
Jason Martin
Lori Runge
Jeanene Smith
Darrel Spinks
Pamela Vermander

Agenda Item 1 was to call the meeting to order at 9:05 am, by Ms. Smothermon, chair.

Agenda Item 2 was the approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2020, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Francis to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 3 was the discussion and possible action regarding the Board's complaint and enforcement functions. Ms. Faszholz gave the report regarding the status of open complaints, compliance activities, Complaint Review Team activities, and complaint trends. Attorney Bulloch provided report on informal conference concerning Case #1062-19-0006 ED and status of State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) Case #1062-16-0047 JF.

Agenda Item 4 was the discussion and possible action regarding application, licensure and supervision issues. Ms. Faszholz reported issues concerning Cameron Brown and Ian Hammonds had been resolved by staff.

- Concerning Thomas Copeland, Rev. Dr. Scoma made the motion to accept documented previous LMFT licensure of Applicant Copeland as substantially equivalent experience requirements for new LMFT licensure; however, in accord with law and rules Applicant Copeland must resolve deficiency to be eligible to sit for re-examination. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Regarding Angelica Escobar Barrera, Chaplain Stoglin made the motion to proceed with investigation of possible unlicensed practice. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Merchant made the motion to accept excess graduate intern hours documented by Universidad Santo Tomas. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Concerning Josh Llano, Chaplain Stoglin made the motion to accept documented military education and experience as substantially equivalent to experience requirements for LMFT licensure. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Regarding Lori Runge, Dr. Merchant made the motion to accept hours during which at least one hour of supervision is reported toward experience requirement for LMFT licensure. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Concerning Laurel Strahan, Mr. Miller made the motion to table the matter until such time that Applicant Strahan provides information requested by staff.
- Regarding applications and forms, Ms. Faszholz gave report. No action was taken.
- Concerning licensing matrix, Mr. Francis made motion to table. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 5 was the discussion and possible action regarding the jurisprudence exam. No action taken.

Agenda Item 6 was the discussion and possible action regarding recommendations to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) for changes to Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 801, concerning Licensure and Regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists in alignment with Title 3 of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 502, concerning Marriage and Family Therapists, as amended by 86th Texas Legislature (regular session, 2019) in House Bill 1501. Rev. Dr. Scoma made the motion to recommend proposed rules in *Subchapter A* to BHEC. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Merchant made the motion to recommend proposed rules in *Subchapter B* to BHEC. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Francis made the motion to recommend proposed rules in *Subchapter C* to BHEC. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Francis made the motion to recommend proposed rules in *Subchapter D* to BHEC. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 7 was the discussion and possible action regarding changes to the board's Schedule of Sanctions / Aggravating and Mitigating Factors policy (also known as Penalty Matrix). No action was taken

Agenda Item 8 was the discussion and possible action regarding the board's Complaint Review Team policy. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 9 was the discussion and possible final action on agreed orders, default orders, and final orders in enforcement cases: Concerning Case #1062-17-0054 HD, Dr. Bateman made the motion to approve the Order for Reprimand. The motion was seconded and passed; regarding Cases #1062-19-0003 and #1062-19-0004 JA, Dr. Merchant made the motion to approve the Order. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 10 was the discussion regarding proposal to convene Fall 2020 board meetings at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas or send a delegate to the Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) 34th Annual Meeting of State Delegates to be held September 22 and 23, 2020 in Seattle, Washington. Chaplain Stoglin made the motion to table this item. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 11 was the discussion concerning board's strategies for communication to stakeholders and stakeholder engagement. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 12 was the discussion regarding recommendations from Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR). No action taken.

Agenda Item 13 was the report from the Board Chair concerning current challenges and accomplishments; lawsuits; interaction with stakeholders, state officials, and staff; committee appointments and functions; workload of board members; conferences; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the board. Ms. Smothermon gave the report.

Agenda Item 14 was the report from the Interim Executive Director concerning program operations; customer service accomplishments, inquiries, and challenges; current and/or historical licensee statistics; media, legislative, and stakeholder contacts and concerns; workload processing; special projects assigned to interim executive director; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the licensure program. Ms. Faszholz gave the report.

Agenda Item 15 was the Management report from the Professional Licensing and Certification Unit Manager, concerning unit organization and staffing; program costs and revenue; current operational initiatives; customer service accomplishments and challenges; workload processing and statistical information; status of rulemaking within the unit; legislative and media contacts and tracking; and general information regarding routine unit functions. Mr. Speer gave the report.

Agenda Item 16 was the discussion and possible action regarding future priorities and activities of the board. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 17 was public comment. Four people addressed the board.

Agenda Item 18 was Executive Session: Consultation with board attorney pursuant to Government Code § 551.071 regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or settlement offers. There was no executive session.

Agenda Item 19 was the discussion and possible action regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 20 was announcements and comments not requiring committee action, such as statements regarding conferences and other recent or upcoming events. The next meeting of the board is proposed for July 24 and 25, 2020.

Agenda Item 21 was adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.